

PROCEEDINGS
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THE TAXONOMIC STATUS OF THE BATS *CORYNORHINUS PHYLLOTIS* G. M. ALLEN AND *IDIONYCTERIS MEXICANUS* ANTHONY

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Among the least known mammals of North America are the big-eared bats *Corynorhinus phyllotis* G. M. Allen (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 60:352, 1916) and *Idionycteris mexicanus* Anthony (American Mus. Nov., 54:1, 1923), each of which is known only by the type specimen.

The first was secured in San Luis Potosí in 1878. It was stuffed with the ears laid forward over the face and with the skull left in the skin. It bore a superficial resemblance to *Plecotus auritus* and was reported as that species by J. A. Allen (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 8:184, 1881). Later the skull was removed. G. M. Allen (*loc. cit.*) noticed the lappets of the accessory basal lobes of the auricles lying over the rostrum, partly concealed by the overlying ears. He mistook them for enlarged muzzle glands and pronounced the specimen to be a new species of *Corynorhinus*, *C. phyllotis*.

The second, obtained in Tamaulipas in 1922, was stuffed with ears erect and the lappets of the accessory anterior basal lobes of the auricles prominently exposed. It was described by Anthony (*loc. cit.*) as a new genus and new species, *Idionycteris mexicanus*, based mainly on the structure of the auricle and the similarity of the skull to that of the Old World *Plecotus*.

I have examined both specimens and have photographed their skulls. The major difference between the two is that the type of *I. mexicanus* is in more worn pelage, allowing the dark hair bases to show through on the dorsum. There appears to be no basis for regarding these specimens as being even subspecifically distinct. *Idionycteris mexicanus* Anthony is, therefore, a synonym of *Corynorhinus phyllotis* G. M. Allen, and the species should be known as *Idionycteris phyllotis* G. M. Allen.

The genus *Idionycteris* may be distinguished from its allies, *Plecotus* and *Corynorhinus*, by the following characteristics: Nostril unspecialized, accessory basal lobe of auricle developed into projecting lappet, calcar keeled, and brain case broad (53 per cent of greatest length of skull as opposed to 48-50 per cent).

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